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COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN
Thirty-ninth session
New York, 15 March-4 April 1995
Agenda item 5

MONITORING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NAIROBI FORWARD-LOOKING STRATEGIES FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF WOMEN

Argentina*, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina*, Bulgaria, Canada*, Chile, Croatia*, Cyprus, Denmark*, Dominican Republic*, Ecuador, Finland, France, the Gambia*, Germany*, Ghana*, Greece, Guinea, Iceland*, Ireland*, Italy*, Kenya*, Morocco*, the Netherlands*, Norway*, Philippines, Portugal, Slovenia*, Spain, Sweden*, Turkey*, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*, Zambia and Zimbabwe*: draft resolution

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

The Commission on the Status of Women recommends to the Economic and Social Council the adoption of the following draft resolution:

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind that the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women 1/ is a key international human rights instrument for the promotion of equality between women and men,

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* In accordance with rule 69 of the rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council.

1/ Resolution 34/180, annex.

Welcoming the increasing number of States parties to the Convention, which has reached one hundred and thirty-nine,

Noting with deep concern that the Convention is still one of the human rights instruments with a large number of reservations, many of which run contrary to the object and purpose of the Convention, despite the fact that some States Parties have withdrawn their reservations to it,

Recalling the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action 2/ adopted by the World Conference on Human Rights, held at Vienna in June 1993, in which the Conference stipulated that the human rights of women and of the girl child were an inalienable, integral and indivisible part of universal human rights,

Recalling also that in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, the Conference recommended the adoption of new procedures to strengthen the implementation of the commitment to women's equality and human rights, including a call upon the Commission on the Status of Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to examine quickly the possibility of introducing the right of petition through the preparation of an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women,

Noting suggestion No. 7, entitled "Elements for an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", 3/ adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its fourteenth session,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/94 of 16 December 1992, relating to the scheduling of the meetings of the Committee,

Recalling also Council resolution 1994/7 of 21 July 1994 and relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly to support the work of the Committee,

Welcoming General Assembly resolution 49/164 of 23 December 1994 and its decision 49/448 of 23 December 1994, providing for a meeting of States Parties to the Convention in 1995 to consider the revision of article 20, paragraph 1 of the Convention,

Aware that the workload of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women has increased because of the growing number of States Parties to the Convention, and that the annual session of the Committee

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2/ Report of the World Conference on Human Rights, Vienna, 14-25 June 1993 (A/CONF.157/24 (Part I)), chap. III.

3/ See E/CN.6/1995/CRP.1.

is still the shortest of all the annual sessions of the human rights treaty bodies,

Welcoming the Committee's efforts to further improve its working methods, inter alia, by adopting concluding observations containing specific suggestions and recommendations,

1. Calls upon the States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, at their meeting in 1995, to consider the revision of article 20, paragraph 1, of the Convention to allow the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to meet annually with sufficient time for the effective performance of its functions under the Convention;

2. Supports the request made by the Committee at its twelfth session for additional meeting time, with adequate support from the Secretariat, so as to allow the Committee to meet once a year for three weeks for its fourteenth and fifteenth sessions, and recommends that the request made by the Committee at its fourteenth session to hold two sessions in 1996, each of three weeks' duration, be considered favourably, within the existing level of budgetary resources;

3. Welcomes the efforts made by the Committee to improve its procedures and working methods, and encourages it to continue such efforts, within its mandate;

4. Notes that suggestion No. 7, entitled "Elements for an optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women", adopted by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women at its fourteenth session, was transmitted to the Commission on the Status of Women for consideration;

5. Requests the Secretary-General to invite Governments, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations to submit their views on an optional protocol to the Convention, including those related to feasibility, taking into account the elements suggested by the Committee in its suggestion No. 7;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women at its fortieth session a comprehensive report, including a synthesis, on the views expressed in accordance with paragraph 5 above, if possible six weeks prior to the commencement of the session;

7. Decides that the Commission on the Status of Women shall establish an in-session open-ended working group for a two-week period at its fortieth session to consider the above report with a view to elaborating a draft optional protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

8. Once again urges all States that have not yet done so to become parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women;

9. Encourages States to consider limiting the extent of any reservation they lodge to the Convention, to formulate any reservation as precisely and as narrowly as possible, and to ensure that no reservation is incompatible with the object and purpose of the Convention or otherwise contrary to international law;

10. Requests States Parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women to regularly review their reservations with a view to withdrawing them expeditiously so that the Convention may be fully implemented;

11. Encourages States Parties who are behind schedule in submitting their periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to do so promptly, and requests the Committee to monitor this problem;

12. Urges the Secretary-General to continue to publicize widely the decisions and recommendations of the Committee.